



MEAP/MME

Coordinator Update

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability
Michigan Educational Assessment Program/Michigan Merit Examination

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www.michigan.gov/oeaa

Wanted: Standard-Setting Panelists for the Michigan Merit Examination

Legislation enacted in 2005 mandates that by the 2006-2007 school year the MEAP high school tests must be replaced with a new system of high school assessments called the Michigan Merit Examination (MME). This spring, 37 Michigan high schools were part of a pilot of the MME, which included the ACT along with parts of WorkKeys and Michigan-developed augmentation components. The purpose of the MME is to determine if our students are on track to be prepared for entry into the workplace or college.

In order to set standards for the MME, we are seeking Michigan educators, parents, and business and community members to join us in Lansing on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th to determine the scores that define Basic, Met and Exceeded levels of performance.

There will be four standard-setting panels, one each for reading, writing, mathematics and science. The composition of each panel will be as follows:

- 5 University/Community College content specialists
- 5 High School content specialists
- 2 Business/community representatives
- 1 Community College Admissions Officer
- 1 University Admissions Officer
- 1 Parent of an 11th grade student
- 1 High School Principal
- 1 High School Counselor

This provides 17 members per standard-setting panel. An online application can be accessed by going to <http://www.michigan.gov/mme>, and clicking on "MME Standard Setting Committee Information & Application." Panelists will be paid a stipend of \$250 per day plus all expenses for travel, including meals and overnight accommodations (if needed). In addition to the application form, high school educators are required to submit a recommendation from their supervisor. The recommendation form is also available on the MME Webpage.

The deadline for online applications is Monday, July 17th. The additional recommendation form for high school educators must be mailed, faxed, or emailed by July 17th to:

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Michigan Department of Education/OEAA
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909-0008

FAX: (517) 335-1186
E-mail: martineauj@michigan.gov

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Item Development Team

One aspect of developing tests for the Michigan ELPA is to develop high quality items. We need Michigan educators to participate in this important activity.

Participants selected to be part of the Item Development Team will meet in June and August 2006 under the direction of ELPA staff, the ELPA administration contractor, and other curriculum and assessment specialists. Participants will learn first-hand how to develop high-quality assessment items. This skill will assist educators as they develop assessments at the classroom and school levels, and reinforce the importance of utilizing Michigan standards in the development of curriculum and materials. Participation in this process will also permit teachers to assist the state in assuring that the ELPA assessments are appropriate for Michigan's children and youth.

For more information and to access the ELPA Item Development Team application, please go to the ELPA Webpage at www.michigan.gov/elpa.

What's New on MME Webpage

There are several new items on the MME Webpage. These include:

- MME Standard Setting Committee Information & Application – OEAA will direct a standard-setting process this summer to set standards for the MME, based on the Spring 2006 pilot test. Persons interested in serving on a standard setting panel should download the information and application.
- School Administrator Recommendation for Standard Setting Committee – Educators wishing to serve on a standard-setting panel this summer will also need to obtain their school administrator's recommendation to serve.
- Use of State-Administered ACT for Admissions to the Air Force Academy – This article describes the decision of the Air Force Academy to accept state-administered ACT scores for admission.
- Questions and Answers from the April 27th MME Plans and Prospects Videoconference – This document provides a number of questions raised during or after the April 27 implementation videoconference.
- The MME: Plans for Implementation in 2007 Videoconference PPT – This is the PowerPoint used in the April 27 videoconference.

In addition, there is updated information on:

- Use of State-Administered ACT Tests for NCAA Initial-Eligibility Academy – This article describes the decision of the NCAA to accept state-administered ACT scores for determining freshman eligibility for athletics purposes.

Check out each of these articles, and many more, at www.michigan.gov/mme. Watch for additional articles or updated ones throughout the summer and fall.

Use of State-Administered ACT Tests for NCAA Initial-Eligibility

Recently the NCAA introduced legislation that would allow for the use of state-administered ACT Tests in determining initial-eligibility for participation in Division I and Division II sports. Prior to this legislation, only test scores achieved under national testing conditions on a national testing date could be used.

For Division II this legislation has been adopted effective January 9, 2006. For Division I, pending final confirmation, this legislation will become effective on August 1, 2006.

What this means – Pending final confirmation and adoption of the Division I legislation, students entering college on or after August 1, 2006 will be able to use State-Administered ACT Test scores

(such as in the Michigan Merit Examination) for determination of their initial-eligibility for both Division I and II.

Questions may be directed to the NCAA Clearinghouse at 877/262-1492.

Plan for Measuring Year-to-Year Student Progress

OEAA is developing a plan for measuring the progress of students on the MEAP, MI-Access, and ELPA from one grade to the next. The plan was presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) at the June 13, 2006 meeting for an initial discussion.

OEAA staff have been reviewing recent research and literature on measuring student progress, and have engaged experts from around the country in developing a model for measuring student progress. Because progress is best measured where individual students have scores in adjacent grades on overlapping content, we are currently exploring the measurement of student progress where there are adjacent-grade assessments. These include MEAP and MI-Access Mathematics and English Language Arts assessments from Grades 4-8, and ELPA from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

In its preliminary form, the plan measures student progress across performance level boundaries (e.g. from Basic to Met Standards). However, performance levels are relatively broad, and students may make remarkable progress within one of those categories without actually crossing a performance level boundary. Therefore, performance levels are sub-divided into smaller categories (e.g. Low Basic, Mid Basic, and High Basic) to capture this type of student progress (e.g. Low Apprentice to High Apprentice). The current plan calls for different types of progress to be evaluated by stakeholders in order to determine what progress scores will be given both to students and to schools. It also calls for school progress to be evaluated by panels of stakeholders.

When analyzed and reported well, measures of progress provide a means for determining whether students are catching up in relation to the defined curriculum if they did not meet Michigan standards the previous year, and whether they are keeping up if they met Michigan standards in the previous year. Educators will be able to see more clearly how much students are progressing from year to year.

The OEAA will keep you informed as "progress" is made with this model.

OEAA Secure Website User Manual

A new and more complete manual for the secure website is now available on the LOGIN page of the secure website (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) by clicking on the pink OEAA Secure Website How-to Documents link. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who needs it.

OEAA staff will be adding the schoolhouse screens (e.g. entering enrollment numbers, ordering materials etc.,) in the very near future.

MEAP Toll Free Number

We have received calls from an out-of-state manufacturing company that is receiving lots of calls every fall and spring for OEAA/MEAP. Apparently their toll free number begins with **888** followed by the rest of the OEAA/MEAP toll free number. Please be sure you are using the correct OEAA/MEAP toll free number, which is **877**-560-8378.